



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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SFWMD Issues a Burn Ban on Public Lands

Campfires and other open burning are prohibited because of extremely dry conditions

West Palm Beach, FL — To protect lives, property and the environment in severe drought conditions that have increased wildfire danger, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) today issued an emergency order prohibiting building fires on certain District lands open for recreation.

The order covers 13 of the District's 16 counties. Polk, Osceola, and Orange counties are exempt from the ban because of recent rainfall.

The ban means no fires in grills, fireplaces or fire rings until further notice. The cautious use of portable camp stoves and grills for cooking purposes is allowed.

As of April 10, 1,704 wildfires have burned 53,608 acres in Florida, according to data from the Florida Division of Forestry. The danger of additional wildfires will increase dramatically if dry conditions persist.

Along with the burn ban, the SFWMD is asking residents and businesses to conserve water and follow landscape irrigation restrictions to stretch and protect the public water supply. For water saving tips, visit www.savewaterfl.com.



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About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.